

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale outlet stores, comprising the steps of:

entering into one or more agreements with one or more retail and/or wholesale outlet stores to store and distribute goods that are different from displayed goods at the retail and/or wholesale outlet stores; [[and]]

providing a mechanism for customers to remotely order the goods stored at the one or more retail and/or wholesale outlet stores and receive order confirmation information; and

electronically providing a retail or wholesale outlet store associated with the order confirmation information with a packing list associated with the order confirmation information after the order confirmation information is presented to the retail or wholesale outlet store;

wherein the one or more agreements provide that, upon presentation of the order confirmation information at [[a]] the retail and/or wholesale outlet store associated with the order confirmation information, possession of goods associated with the order confirmation information is transferred to a presenter of the order confirmation information;

wherein the one or more agreements additionally require the retail or wholesale outlet stores to package goods associated with the order confirmation information after the order confirmation information is presented to the retail or wholesale outlet stores.

2. (original) The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale outlet stores of claim 1, wherein at least one of the agreements provides one or more of the retail and/or wholesale outlet stores an exclusive territory with respect to distribution of the goods.

3. (original) The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale outlet stores of claim 1, wherein the step of entering into one or more agreements is preceded by the step of:

soliciting competing bids from prospective retail or wholesale outlet stores to provide storage and distribution services.

4. (original) The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale outlet stores of claim 1, wherein the mechanism for customers to remotely order the goods comprises a Website.

5-6. (canceled)

7. (original) The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale outlet stores of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

electronically transferring funds to a retail or wholesale outlet store associated with the order confirmation information after the order confirmation information is presented to the retail or wholesale outlet store.

8. (original) The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale outlet stores of claim 1, wherein the one or more agreements additionally require the retail or wholesale outlet stores to receive the goods in bulk containers.

9. (original) The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale outlet stores of claim 8, wherein the one or more agreements additionally require the retail or wholesale outlet stores to return the bulk containers once the bulk containers are empty.

10. (original) The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale outlet stores of claim 1, wherein the one or more agreements additionally require the retail or wholesale outlet stores to distribute the goods in intimate level protection packaging.

11-15. (canceled)

16. (original) A processing system for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale outlet stores, comprising:

a processor configured to receive an inventory verification request and information pertaining to a geographic location, to identify one or more retail or wholesale outlet stores that are within a particular distance of the geographic location and that have in stock goods identified in the inventory verification request, and to generate a list of the one or more retail or wholesale outlet stores.

17. (original) The processor system for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale outlet stores of claim 16, wherein the processor is further configured to generate order confirmation information associated with the goods identified in the inventory verification request and with one of the retail or wholesale outlet stores on the list.

18. (original) The processor system for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale outlet stores of claim 17, wherein the order confirmation information is associated with the retail or wholesale outlet store on the list that is closest to the geographic location.

19. (original) The processor system for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale outlet stores of claim 17, wherein the order confirmation information is associated with the retail or wholesale outlet store on the list that is selected by a purchaser of the goods.

20. (original) The processor system for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale outlet stores of claim 17, wherein the processor is further configured to provide a packing list associated with the goods identified in the inventory verification request in response to an indication that the order confirmation information has been provided to the retail or wholesale outlet store associated with the order confirmation information.

21. (original) The processor system for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale outlet stores of claim 17, wherein the processor is further configured to initiate a transfer of funds in response to an indication that the order confirmation information has been provided to the retail or wholesale outlet store associated with the order confirmation information.